THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir, it is not a fact that most of the telephones are not functioning properly in Guwahati.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Five complaints against the Department has been lodged in the Court by some subscribers.

(d) Department has already taken adequate measures to reduce the faults and improve calls success rate under Mission-Better Communications programmes.

Adequate measures are taken to reduce interruptions due to cable faults, to avoid wrong billing and prolonged interruptions.

Telephone connections in Upper Assam Circle

607. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for non-supply of materials, thousands of telephone subscribers are deprived of their connecions in the Upper Assam Circle;

(b) if so, what is the number of such subscribers; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to pay interest on the deposit amount of the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. Telephone connections to subscribers are not generally held up for want of materials. However, it has not been possible to provide telephone connections to all the subscribers in the waiting list due to non-availability of equipped capacity in some exchanges.

(b) The total number of subscribers in the Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tejpur and Nawgoan divisions of Upper Assam in waiting list as on 30-6-1988 are 2525.

(c) Yes, Sir. The subscribers are paid interest on the amount of deposit from the date of the peposit to the date immediately preceeding the date of installation

Telephone services in Malaviya Nagar

608. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased so state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of telephones in Malaviya Nagar, New Delhi are lying out of order during the last one month;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of repeated complaints to the Nehru Place Exchange these telephones have not been restored;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action has been taken against the erring officials for not rectifying the faults in time; and

(d) what are the number of complaints received during the month of July 1988 for exchange levels '644' and in Malaviya Nagar and in how many cases the faults have not yet been repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise. All the faults which were booked were attended to promptly.

(d) About 450 complaints were booked during the last one month and all the faults have since been cleared